

Message Text

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TAGS: SEDU, PINT, GR

SUBJECT: DISPUTE AT THESSALONIKI UNIVERSITY

1. ALL LOCAL PAPERS AUGUST 22 GIVE PROMINENT COVERAGE TO BITTER DISPUTE WHICH AROSE PREVIOUS DAY AT THESSALONIKI UNIV DURING MEETING OF FACULTY WITH MINISTER OF EDUCATION NIKOLAOS LOUROS, UNDER SECRETARY DIMITRIOS TSATSOS AND OTHER MINISTRY OFFICIALS.

2. MEETING, CALLED BY LOUROS TO DISCUSS UNIVERSITY PROBLEMS AND FUTURE PLANNING, ERUPTED EARLY ON WHEN RECTOR, EVANGELOS SDRAKAS, BLOCKED MINISTRY PROPOSALS AND OBJECTED TO INTERVENTION AND PRESENCE AT MEETING OF UNIVERSITY ASSISTANT PROFESSOR DIMITRIOS MARONITIS. LOUROS DEMURRED, STATING MARONIAIS WAS ALSO SPECIAL ADVISER TO MINISTRY, THEREFORE ELIGIBLE TO ATTEND, AND, WHEN SDRAKAS CONTINUED ATTACK, WITHDREW FROM MEETING WITH OTHER MINED REPS.

3. FACULTY MEMBERS THEN PROTESTED SDRAKAS BEHAVIOR AND DEMANDED HE RESIGN, WHICH HE REFUSED, STATING HE ELECTED RECTOR AND WOULD FIGHT "AS HE HAD FOUGHT JUNTA". QUESTIONED ON LATTER POINT, AS A JUNTA APPOINTEE, SDRAKAS RESPONDED

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HE HAD SUCCESSFULLY RESISTED EFFORTS OF MILITARY REGIME

TO OUST THREE PROFESSORS, INCLUDING NEWLY-APPOINTED
DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR HIGHER EDUCATION DIMITRIOS FATOUROS
(THESSALONIKI 439, PARA. 3-C).

4. MINED GROUP HELD SUCCESSFUL AFTERNOON MEETING WITH
FACULTY OF HIGHER INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL, FOLLOWED BY MEETING
OF TSATSOS, FATOUROS AND MARONITIS WITH THOUSAND UNIVERSITY
STUDENTS. INSISTENT DEMANDS VOICED BY STUDENTS FOR
SWEEPING CHANGES IN EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM MET WITH ASSURANCES
OF GOVERNMENTAL ATTENTION FROM ALL OFFICIALS, AND PROMISE
OF ACTION "WITHIN TEN DAYS" BY MORE MERCURIAL MARONITIS.

5. IN ONE OF ITS RARE EDITORIAL COMMENTS, "MAKEDONIA"
CRITICIZED MINED AND GOG FOR INCIDENT, CONTENDING THEY
SHOULD NEVER HAVE CONSENTED TO CONFERENCE WITH UNIVERSITY
OFFICIALS APPOINTED BY MILITARY REGIME, ALL OF WHOM
SHOULD HAVE BEEN REPLACED.

6. COMMENT: WE UNDERSTAND ANTI-AMERICAN RESOLUTION
PROPOSED BY FACULTY AT FIRST MEETING WAS REJECTED BY
LOUROS ON GROUNDS IT INCONSISTENT WITH KARAMANLIS POLICY.
CLEARLY, HAD UNIVERSITY NOT BEEN IN SUMMER RECESS,
PRESENCE ON CAMPUS OF THREE "HEROES" OF ACADEMIC
RESISTANCE (TSATSOS, FATOURAS AND MARONITIS) WOULD HAVE
STIRRED EVEN GREATER EXCITEMENT. UNDER NEW CIVILIAN
GOVERNMENT AND WITH RETURN OF STUDENTS TO CAMPUS IN
FALL, UNIVERSITY CAN BE EXPECTED TO AGAIN BECOME A
MAJOR FOCAL POINT OF POLITICAL ACTIVITY AND CONTROVERSY
IN NORTHERN GREECE.
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